Amendments to the Claims

1. (Original) A molded article comprising

high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification, and

low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000.

2. (Original) A molded article according to Claim 1, wherein the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has the degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has the degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000.

3. (Currently amended) A molded article according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25, and the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

4. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the α-1,4-glucans are enzyme-synthesized α-1,4-glucan.

5. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the modification of the α-1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking.

6. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

7. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

8. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.

9. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the molded article is film, sheet, coating, fiber, yarn, non-woven fabric, a food container, an edible container, a medical material, a medical device or a gelatinous molded article.

10. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the molded article is a contact-type food container which directly covers a surface of an agricultural product or a food product.

11. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the molded article is a hard capsule, a soft capsule or a seamless capsule.

12. (Currently amended) A molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the molded article is a feed for an animal, a food or a food additive.

13. (Original) A process for preparing a molded article comprising high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification, wherein the process comprises the step of:

adding the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification to a solution comprising the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification to gel the solution.

14. (Original) A process for preparing a molded article comprising high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification, wherein the process comprises the step of:

cooling a solution comprising the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification to gel the solution.

15. (Original) A process for preparing a molded article comprising high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification, wherein the process comprises the step of:

neutralizing an alkaline solution comprising the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification to gel the solution.

16. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 15~~ Claim 13, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

17. (Currently amended) process for preparing a molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 15~~ Claim 13, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

18. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein the α-1,4-glucans are enzyme-synthesized α-1,4-glucan.

19. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 18~~ Claim 13, wherein the modification of the α-1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking.

20. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 19~~ Claim 13, wherein a weight ratio of the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

21. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 19~~ Claim 13, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

22. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded article according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 19~~ Claim 13, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.

23. (Original) Use of low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan with a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, in the step of gelling a solution containing α-1,4-glucan.

24. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

25. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

26. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

27. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein

the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 560, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 680 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

28. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein the modification of the α-1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking.

29. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein the modification of the α-1,4-glucans is a chemical modification selected from the group consisting of esterification, etherification and crosslinking.

30. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

31. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein a weight ratio of the high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification and the low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 25:75.

32. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

33. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 50:50.

34. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 14, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.

35. (New) A process for preparing a molded article according to Claim 15, wherein a weight ratio of high molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification : low molecular weight α-1,4-glucan and/or its modification is within the range of 99:1 to 75:25.